Statement-IV

Pendency position in the High Courts as on 31.12.2004

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
1.	Allahabad	544655	175993	720648
2.	A.P.	164915	17226	182141
3.	Bombay	288454	37330	325784
4.	Calcutta	212448	40270	252718
5.	Delhi	60353	10772	71125
6.	Gujarat	113505	25962	139467
7.	Gauhati	50442	6939	57381
8.	H.P.	17939	5600	23539
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	42417	2435	44852
10.	Karnataka	118899	10754	129653
11.	Kerala	113652	21752	135404
12.	Madras	275730	23029	298759
13.	M.P.	141785	59133	200918
14.	Orissa	91996	14553	106549
15.	Patna	63290	21658	84948
16.	Punjab & Haryana	218457	46845	265302
17.	Rajasthan	146447	57901	204348
18.	Sikkim	50	5	55
19.	Uttaranchal	29850	6048	35898
20.	Chhattisgarh	42158	21574	63732
21.	Jharkhand	20865	14947	35812
	TOTAL	2758307	620726	3379033

Claim over Taj Mahal

2626. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact thay many organisations are making claims over Taj Mahal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Wakf Board has issued a notice for registration of Maqbara Shahjahan and Mumtaj Mahal property known as "Taj Mahal, Agra" under the provision of Section 36 of the Wafk Act, 1995. (Central Act 43 of 1995)

(b) Archaeological Survey of India is of the view that any attempt of registration of Taj Mahal as wakf property by way of issuance of the notice is absolutely illegal, without jurisdiction and contrary to the provision of the said Act. The Central Government has a sovereign right to possess and manage centrally protected monuments and sites of national importance in the country and the authorities of the Wafk Board can not interfere with the same.

Under the provision of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, the preliminary notification No. 1412M dated 18.11.1920 was published in the United Provinces Gazette on 20th November, 1920 and the final notification was issued *vide* No. 1645M/1133 dated 22.12.1920 to declare Taj Mahal, Agra as a protected monuments.

The Taj Mahal, Agra is not only a centrally protected monument and a cultural heritage of national importance but also has been declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

Cultural heritage of Delhi

2627. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has issued a directive to Government to appoint an Expert Committee to look into the Delhi's heritage culture an ensure that these are not sacrificed;

(b) if so, whether such a Committee has been constituted; and

(c) if so its terms of reference and the time-frame within which it would submit its reports?